

OPEIU LOCAL #9

Newsletter



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PLEASE NOTE MEETING LOCATION

**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2011
5:00 p.m.**

**Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
1st Floor Meeting Room
12 East Erie, Chicago, IL 60611**

Campaign Season in Full Swing

From now until November 6th it is important that each of us devote as much time as we can to re-elect our President and Vice-President and to also support those candidates that your State AFL-CIO has endorsed for other "down-ticket" races which are also vitally important, such as the US Senate race in WI, Congressional races in all states and state-house races. To find out who the labor-endorsed candidates are, please go to the websites for your State AFL-CIO and check out their lists.

If you are not registered to vote please do so soon so that you will be eligible to vote on Election Day. If you are going to be away or working on a campaign on Election Day be sure to cast your ballot during the early voting period in your state or request an absentee ballot to cast. Every vote is vital and every vote must be counted.

Join Monthly Meeting via Skype

A reminder that Skype is now available to enable members to participate in the general membership meetings. There may be one Skype feed per

bargaining unit with all costs for the feed borne by the participating unit. Any bargaining unit interested in being hooked up to a monthly meeting must contact Executive Board member Marilinda Johnson at marilindajohnson@gmail.com by the Friday prior to our Tuesday meeting. This means that anyone interested must contact Marilinda by end of day on October 12th.

Join the Wisconsin Voter Protection Program

The success of a voter protection program depends on having hundreds of trained volunteers observing the polling locations on Election Day, November 6th.

The purpose of polling place volunteers is to ensure that the law is administered correctly by election inspectors, protects voters from improper challenges to their ability to vote; and monitors the registration and check-in lines, and reports any delays to a central monitoring site.

The time commitment of volunteers helping with the voter protection is either a half or full day on Election Day and the completion of a training session that will take place sometime in October. The training will include the relevant statutes and regulations in WI and will instruct you on the Election Day reporting structure.

Anyone interested in volunteering to be a part of the polling site observers should contact Chris Kiva,

Deputy Voter Protection Coordinator at ckriva@ofawi.com or (608) 609-9849.

Better Off? Yes, We Are is the Answer

A central question of the campaign for President once again is "Are you better off now than you were

four years ago.” It’s a question everyone is asking and the GOP tried to persuade the American public that President Obama failed to keep his promises on the economy.

GOP vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan says Obama has no record to run on and that every President since the Great Depression who asked Americans to send them into a second term could say that “you are better off today than you were four years ago, except Jimmy Carter and President Obama.” This is just another whopper from Paul Ryan.

President Obama has not failed. He stopped the bleeding. The nation has had 29 straight months of job growth. The country is safer.

But, this is also true: there are still far too many people out of work. That’s because the problem Obama inherited was too big to fix in one term, especially with Republicans like Paul Ryan disingenuously placing like Lucy with the football, pulling it away from the President every time he went in for the kick. Despite deep divisions with Republicans who have no inclination to cooperate and who have said their main goal is the President’s defeat, Obama has gotten things done.

He passed health care reform. He ended the war in Iraq. He brought thousands of troops home. He killed the No. 1 terrorist in the world. He restored American’s standing with its long-term allies in Europe.

The economy requires long-term medicine. If we want to hold Obama accountable for the state of the economy, then we need to add members of Congress (including Ryan), governors, state and local politicians to this list as well. And don’t forget the bankers and business leaders.

Education is the long-term solution to the country’s economic woes, and Obama has made public schools more accountable. Thanks to his reforms, teachers and principals will undergo more intense evaluations, and he made school districts compete for federal funding. Obama has fought to keep college affordable to the poor and minorities by refusing to cut Pell Grants.

There is no denying the fact that there are areas where the waiting lists for jobs have thousands of names listed. We know how deep this recession is and was for parts of this country.

Still, things are better. And they are better because of a philosophy that First Lady Michelle Obama articulated in her speech at the Democratic convention last month.

“Barack knows what it means when a family struggles,” she said. “And he believes that when you’ve worked hard, and done well, and walked through that doorway of opportunity you do not slam it shut behind you. You reach back, and you give other folks the same chance that helped you succeed.”

That is what President Obama has done and why he is worthy of reelection.

Early Voting

The Early Voting period has changed in many states. In Illinois the Early Voting period begins 15 days prior to Election Day and extends to the Saturday before. In Wisconsin the Early Voting starts Oct. 22nd and runs through Fri. November 2nd. This is an easy way to cast your vote if you plan on helping out on Election Day or have conflicting plans. You should also check your state’s laws regarding time off to go vote on Election Day.

As always, if you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to call or email our office.

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